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December 22, 2010

Joe Yun

Department Of Water Resources

Division Of Integrated Regional Water Management

Po Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Yun:

Subject: Letter Of Support To Rescore And Fund The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed (USMW) Planning Grant

On behalf of the members and stakeholders of the South Orange County Integrated Regional Water Management Group, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DWR Planning Grant Proposed Funding list. We have reviewed the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Planning Grant evaluation and scoring. We support the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Group's request that DWR reconsider and rescore their submittal with the clarifications included in the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Group's letter to you, so that the Planning Grant can be funded in Round 1. As a member of the Tri-County Funding Area Coordination Committee, MWDOC and the South Orange County IRWM Group support the continuing collaboration, cooperation and integration of water management priorities, projects, and programs across our boundaries between South Orange County, the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed and the San Diego IRWM Groups. Further, it is our understanding that the planning grant funding for the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed is critical to continuing work in the following areas:

- Tri-County FACC Coordination and cooperative planning
- Salinity and Nutrient Management planning
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Invasive Species Management and Habitat Enhancement
- Common Disadvantaged Communities Outreach and Activities
- Planning for Water Conservation and
- Water Quality Improvements

Mr. Joe Yun
Department of Water Resources
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If DWR is for any reason unable to fund the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed planning grant through rescoring alone, MWDOC and the South Orange County IRWM Group supports the proposal to shift a portion of Round 2 planning funding (e.g., \$999,000 out of the \$8.33M), already allocated to the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Group through the Tri-County FACC agreement, to Round 1 planning funding. Rancho California Water District, as a local agency, has funded 100 percent of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Planning efforts and also covered Tri-County FACC facilitation expenses.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin P. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin P. Hunt, P.E.
General Manager and
Member, South Orange County IRWM Group